IN THE CLAIMS

*Please amend claims 9, 13, 15-16, 23, 25-26, and 33-38 as follows:*

1. (Withdrawn) In a message center, a method of providing consistency in Short Message Service (SMS) time stamp formatting for mobile communication devices comprising:

receiving an SMS message originating from a first home time zone and intended for a mobile communication device associated with a second home time zone, the SMS message having timestamp data formatted in a Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) format regardless of a current time in the first home time zone;

converting the timestamp data of the SMS message from the UTC format to a non-UTC time format corresponding to the second home time zone; and

after converting the timestamp data, causing the SMS message to be sent to the mobile communication device.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of identifying whether the timestamp data of the SMS message is formatted in the UTC format based on an identification of a message center which included the timestamp data.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of identifying whether the timestamp data of the SMS message is formatted in UTC based on an address of a message center which included the timestamp data.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of identifying whether the timestamp data of the SMS message is formatted in the UTC format based on an identification of a service provider of the mobile communication device.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the act of identifying whether the timestamp data of the SMS message is formatted in the UTC format based on an indication in the SMS message.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

failing to convert the timestamp data from the UTC format to the non-UTC time format corresponding to the second home time zone based on identifying that the SMS message has timestamp data in the non-UTC format.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of providing consistency in Short Message Service (SMS) message timestamp formatting for mobile communication devices, comprising:

providing a removable user identity module for a mobile communication device; and

providing a timestamp mode indicator field in the removable user identify module for storing a programmed indication which is programmed as a fixed value to indicate a timestamp mode of operation of a home message center of the mobile communication device as one of a coordinated universal time (UTC) mode and a non-UTC mode, the programmed indication being programmed as the fixed value for use with SMS message timestamps of each one of a plurality of SMS messages

communicated between the home message center and the mobile communication device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

providing the mobile communication device for receiving the removable user identity module.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising:

providing the mobile communication device for receiving the removable user identity module; ~~and~~

using the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field for determining whether to convert each SMS message timestamp into non-UTC format;

convert the timestamp data from a UTC format to a non-UTC format corresponding to a local time zone of the mobile station when the programmed indicator which is programmed as the fixed value in the removable user identity module indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode, the conversion being performed based on a programmed memory setting in the mobile station which indicates the local time zone of the mobile station; and

refrain from performing UTC-to-non-UTC format conversion of the timestamp data when the programmed indicator in the removable user identity module indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the removable user identity module comprises a R-UIM.

11. (Previously Presented) A removable user identity module for a mobile communication device, comprising:

memory;

a processor coupled to the memory; and

a timestamp mode indicator field in the memory of the removable user identity module for storing a programmed indication which is programmed as a fixed value to indicate a timestamp mode of operation of a home message center of the mobile communication device as one of a coordinated universal time (UTC) mode and a non-UTC mode, the programmed indication being programmed as the fixed value for use with Short Message Service (SMS) timestamps of each one of a plurality of SMS messages received via the home message center.

12. (Previously Presented) The removable user identity module of claim 11, wherein the removable user identity module comprises an R-UIM.

13. (Currently Amended) A mobile station (MS), comprising:

a removable user identity module (R-UIM) which includes:

memory;

a programmed indicator in the memory which is programmed as a fixed value indicative of a timestamp mode of operation of a home message center as one of a coordinated universal time (UTC) mode and a non-UTC mode for use with Short Message Service (SMS) timestamps of each one of a plurality of SMS messages received via the home message center;

a mobile equipment (ME) which includes:

an R-UIM interface which interfaces with the R-UIM;

a processor;

a visual display coupled to the processor;

for each one of the SMS messages received via the home message center, the processor being operative to:

receive, via the home message center, an SMS message having timestamp data;

convert the timestamp data from a UTC format to a non-UTC format corresponding to a local time zone of the mobile station when the programmed indicator which is programmed as the fixed value in the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode, the conversion being performed based on a programmed memory setting in the mobile station which indicates the local time zone of the mobile station; ~~and~~

refrain from performing UTC-to-non-UTC format conversion of the timestamp data when the programmed indicator in the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode; and

cause the visual display to display the timestamp.

14. (Previously Presented) The MS of claim 13, wherein the programmed indicator is programmed in a timestamp mode indicator field in the R-UIM.

15. (Currently Amended) The MS of claim 13, wherein the ~~programmed indicator comprises a service provider identification in the R-~~

~~UIM~~ programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized to identify a time offset value stored in the MS for performing the conversion.

16. (Currently Amended) The MS of claim 13, wherein the ~~processor is further operative to refrain from converting the timestamp data to non-UTC format when the programmed indicator in the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode~~ programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized as an input to a conversion table stored in memory to thereby identify a time offset value for performing the conversion.

17. (Withdrawn) A method of providing consistency in Short Message Service (SMS) message timestamp formatting for mobile communication devices, comprising:

receiving, at a first message center, an SMS message originating from a first home time zone and having subparameters which include a timestamp;

identifying whether the timestamp is formatted in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) format or non-UTC format;

when the timestamp is formatted in UTC format: converting the timestamp from the UTC format to a non-UTC format corresponding to the first home time zone; and

when the timestamp is formatted in non-UTC format: converting the timestamp from the first home time zone to a second home time zone of a mobile communication device which receives the SMS message.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the subparameters include an offset value and the step of converting the timestamp from the UTC format to the non-UTC format of the first home time zone is performed based on the offset value.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of identifying whether the timestamp is formatted in UTC format or non-UTC format is based on examining an address from which the message was received.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the SMS message is sent from a second message center.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the SMS message is sent from a mobile station.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17, wherein the timestamp comprises an SMS Message Center Timestamp.

23. (Currently Amended) A mobile equipment, comprising:

a processor;

a wireless receiver coupled to the processor;

an interface to receive a removable user identity module;

a visual display;

for each one of a plurality of Short Message Service (SMS) messages received via a home message center, the processor being operative to:

receive, through the wireless receiver via the home message center, the SMS message having timestamp data;

convert the timestamp data from a Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) format to a non-UTC format corresponding to a local time zone of the mobile equipment when a programmed indicator, which is programmed as a fixed value in memory of the removable user identity module, indicates that a timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is a UTC mode, the conversion being performed based on a programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone of the mobile equipment; ~~and~~

refrain from performing UTC-to-non-UTC format conversion of the timestamp data when the programmed indicator in the removable user identity module indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode; and

cause the visual display to display the timestamp.

24. (Previously Presented) The mobile equipment of claim 23, wherein the programmed indicator is programmed in a timestamp mode indicator field in the removable user identity module.

25. (Currently Amended) The mobile equipment of claim 23, wherein the ~~programmed indicator comprises a service provider identification in the removable user identity module~~ programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized to identify a time offset value stored in the mobile equipment for performing the conversion.

26. (Currently Amended) The mobile equipment of claim 23, wherein the processor is further operative to ~~refrain from converting the~~

~~timestamp data to non-UTC format when the programmed indicator in the removable user identity module indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is a non-UTC mode~~ programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized as an input to a conversion table stored in memory to thereby identify a time offset value for performing the conversion.

27. (Previously Presented) The mobile equipment of claim 23, further comprising:

for SMS messages sent from the ME, the processor being further operative to:

setting a timestamp in the SMS message as non-UTC time when the programmed indicator in memory of the removable user identity module indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode, and otherwise setting the timestamp in the SMS message as UTC time when the programmed indicator in memory of the removable user identity module indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode.

28. (Previously Presented) The mobile equipment (ME) of claim 23, which is part of a mobile station (MS) which includes the removable user identity module (R-UIM) comprising the memory and the programmed indicator in the memory.

29. (Withdrawn) In a message center, a method of providing consistency in Short Message Service (SMS) message timestamp

formatting for mobile communication devices, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving SMS messages at the message center;

for SMS messages received for a first mobile communication device from a second mobile communication device: modifying the SMS message at the message center to convert a timestamp of the SMS message from a UTC format to a non-UTC format corresponding to a local time in a home time zone associated with the first mobile communication device; and

for SMS messages to be transmitted from the first mobile communication device to the second mobile communication device: modifying the SMS message at the message center to provide a timestamp in the SMS message in a UTC format which is independent of a local time in a home time zone of the second mobile communication device.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the message center operates in a non-UTC time stamp mode.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the SMS message comprises an SMS Teleservice layer message in accordance with 3GPP2.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 29, wherein the home time zone is different from Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

33. (Currently Amended) A method in a mobile communication device equipped with a removable user identity module (R-UIM) for

providing consistency in a Short Message Service (SMS) message timestamp formatting, the method comprising:

providing a timestamp mode indicator field in the R-UIM for storing a programmed indication which is programmed as a fixed value to indicate a timestamp mode of operation of a home message center of the mobile communication device as one of a coordinated universal time (UTC) mode and a non-UTC mode, the programmed indication being programmed as the fixed value for use with SMS message timestamps of each one of a plurality of SMS messages communicated between the home message center and the mobile communication device; ~~and~~

for each one of the plurality of SMS messages having the SMS message timestamps:

determining~~, for each one of the plurality of SMS messages having the SMS message timestamps,~~ whether to convert the SMS message timestamp of the SMS message to non-UTC format based upon the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field;

converting the SMS message timestamp to the non-UTC format corresponding to a local time zone of the mobile communication device when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode, the conversion being performed based on a programmed memory setting of the mobile communication device which indicates the local time zone of the mobile communication device; and

refraining from performing UTC-to-non-UTC format conversion for the SMS message timestamp when the programmed indication

in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, ~~further comprising:~~

~~converting the SMS message timestamp to the non-UTC format when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode~~ wherein the programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized to identify a time offset value stored in the mobile communication device for performing the conversion.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, ~~further comprising:~~

~~refraining from converting the SMS message timestamp to the non-UTC format when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode~~ programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized as an input to a conversion table stored in memory to thereby identify a time offset value for performing the conversion.

36. (Currently Amended) A method in a mobile communication device equipped with a removable user identity module (R-UIM) for providing consistency in a Short Message Service (SMS) message

timestamp formatting for an SMS message having an SMS message timestamp, the method comprising:

storing, in a timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM, a programmed indication which is programmed as a fixed value to indicate a timestamp mode of operation of a home message center of the mobile communication device as one of a coordinated universal time (UTC) mode and a non-UTC mode, the programmed indication being programmed as the fixed value for use with SMS message timestamps of each one of a plurality of SMS messages communicated between the home message center and the mobile communication device; ~~and~~

for each one of the plurality of SMS messages having the SMS message timestamps:

determining whether to convert the SMS message timestamp of the SMS message to non-UTC format based upon the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field;

converting the SMS message timestamp to the non-UTC format corresponding to a local time zone of the mobile communication device when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode, the conversion being performed based on a programmed memory setting of the mobile communication device which indicates the local time zone of the mobile communication device; and

refraining from performing UTC-to-non-UTC conversion of the SMS message timestamp when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the

timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, ~~further comprising:~~

~~converting the SMS message timestamp to the non-UTC format when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the UTC mode~~ wherein the programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized to identify a time offset value stored in the mobile communication device for performing the conversion.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 36, ~~further comprising:~~

~~refraining from converting the SMS message timestamp to the non-UTC format when the programmed indication in the timestamp mode indicator field of the R-UIM indicates that the timestamp mode of operation of the home message center is the non-UTC mode~~ wherein the programmed memory setting which indicates the local time zone is utilized as an input to a conversion table stored in memory to thereby identify a time offset value for performing the conversion.